

Birmingham resource pack

Urbanisation of Birmingham



This map shows the extent of Birmingham in 1731 at the start of the industrial revolution

Population of the town was around 20,000

Birmingham had 3 main natural advantages for the development of industry – deposits of iron ore, a coal seam and a number of streams that could be used to run watermills

The history of Birmingham's CBD

Britain's second city has a long history as a leading centre for trade and business. The site of the Bullring is in the heart of Birmingham's CBD.

1166:

The Bullring site began life as the city's market place.

1960's:

The market site became one of the country's most famous examples of urban planning with the dramatic development of the old Bullring into one of the world's largest enclosed shopping centres outside the US.

1980's:

Despite its history, Birmingham CBD had little to offer and was in serious decline. Many shoppers and businesses had left the CBD to go to new retail and business parks built on the urban-rural fringe of the city.

The Bullring shopping centre reflected this decline. By the 1980s it:

- looked outdated
- had mainly cheap discount shops
- had a poor reputation for crime
- couldn't compete with the modern, spacious and easily accessible out-of-town retail centres

1990s:

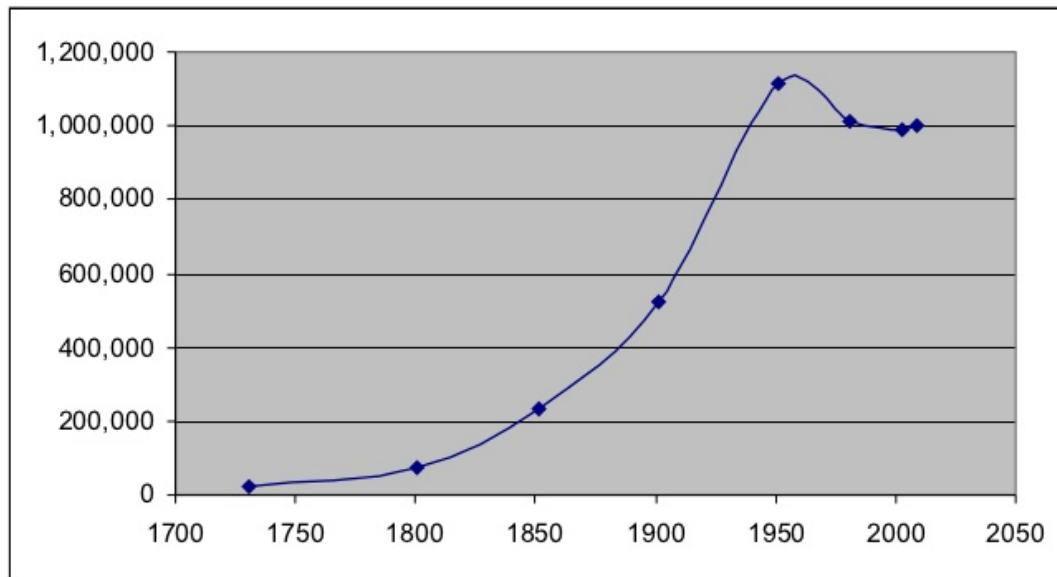
Birmingham council decided to totally redevelop the Bullring site as well as a number of other parts of the CBD. Urban planners and architects began work to redesign the area with the aim of bringing investment, businesses, jobs and shoppers back to the CBD.

2000:

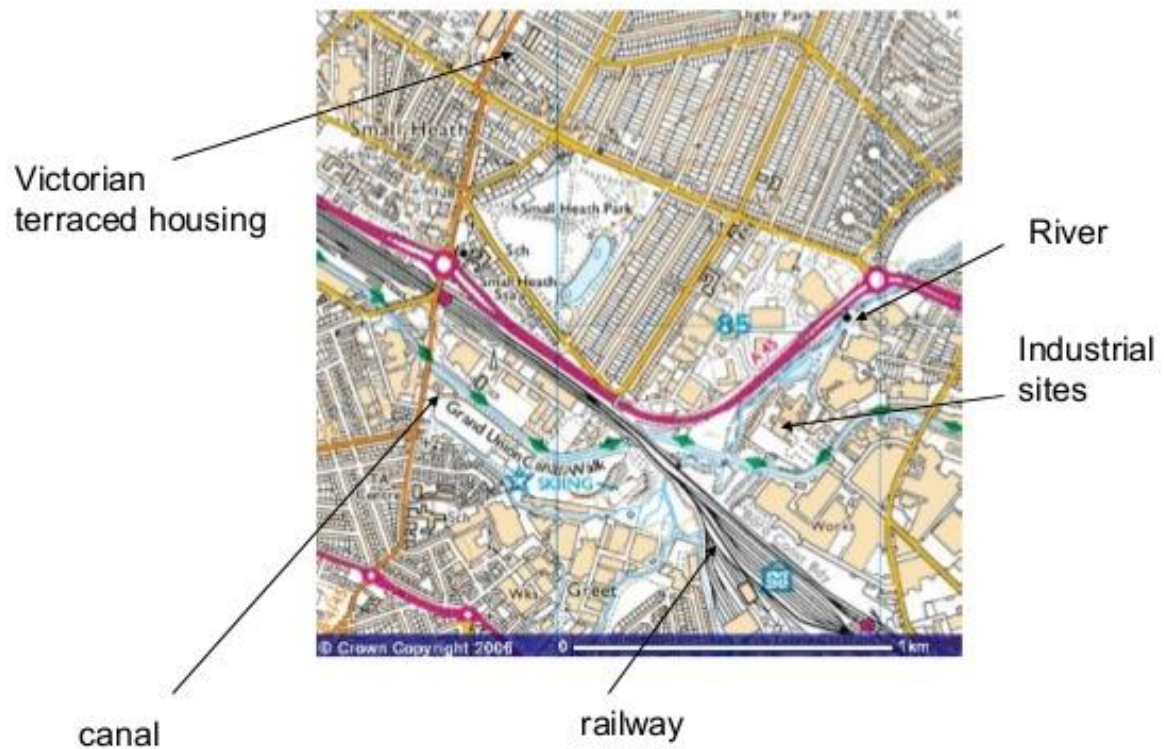
Demolition of the old Bullring started on the 30 June 2000, with completion in March 2001. Construction of the new Bullring Centre started immediately after.

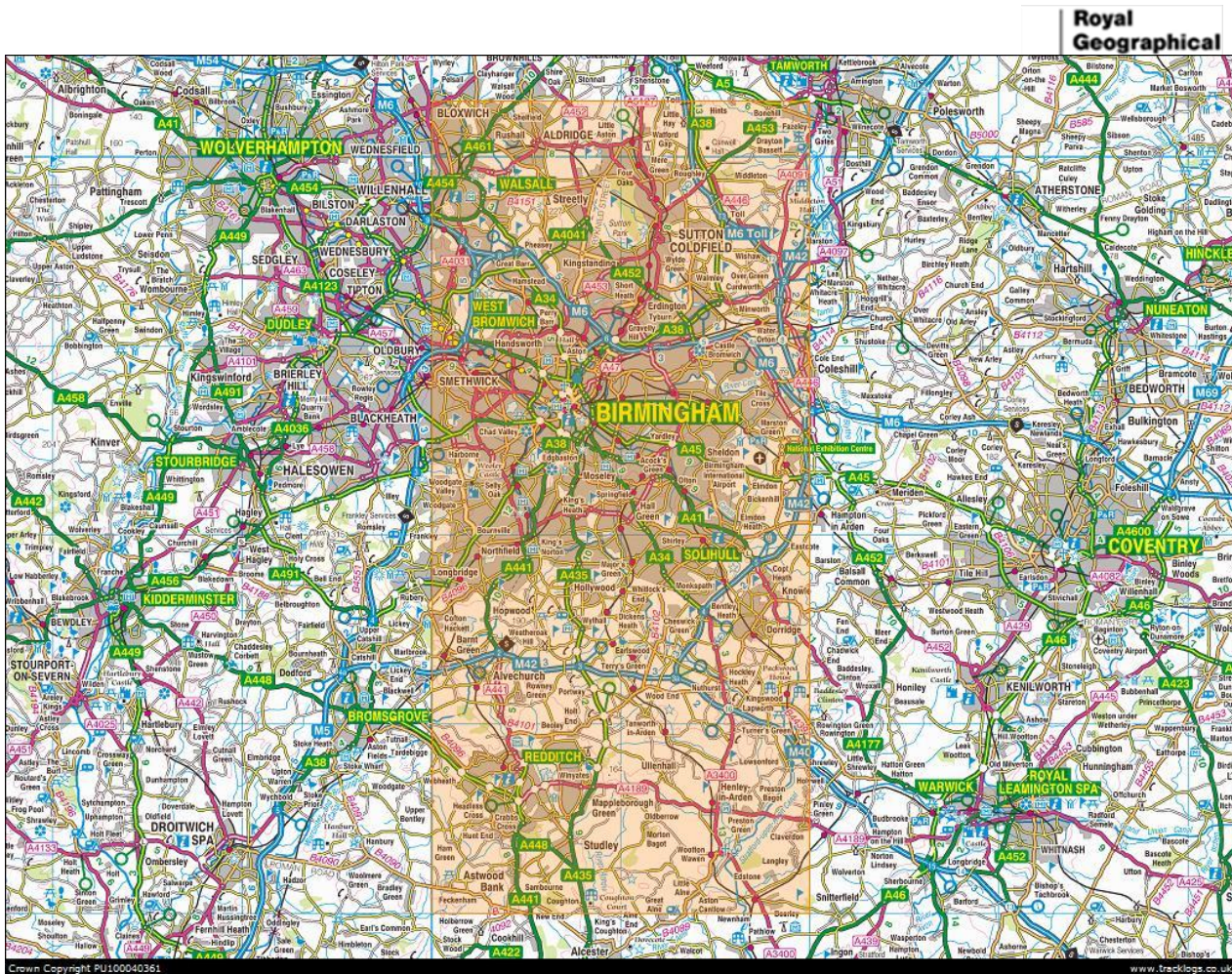


Population change in Birmingham



LAND USE IN CENTRAL BIRMINGHAM





BIRMINGHAM BIG CITY PLAN

- Expansion of core area of the city by 25%
- £2.1 billion to the economy each year
- 50,000 new jobs
- 1.5 million square metre of new floorspace
- £600 million on redevelopment of New Street station
- Development of new offices in Snow Hill district
- Construction of a new library
- Increased pedestrian access
- Restoration of the canal system
- More public space for leisure and retail
- Greater areas of green space

